WITKZ

The Spark Gap

MAY 1986

Book X Vol IV

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

President's Message

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

April is now over and the busy season for Ham Radio starts. In May all the flea markets start selling fleas and we look ahead to the rest of the spring and summer lineup.

In that tradition, the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society's June VHF contest expedition is tops on the list. This weekend at beautiful Mt. Equinox, Vermont is a real nice take. The weekend is marked usually by the first heatwave of the year, a vintage sports car road race (yes, up the mountain), and of course the June VHF contest. I hope lots of us take this opportunity to put W1TKZ on the air this June, from Vermont.

Field Day a few weeks after that, will bring the rest of us out for the local trip to the Wellesley Town Hall when we test our emergency capability.

In July, the New England Tinman Triathalon has contacted us about helping with emergency communications, keep Sunday the 13th of July open for this one.

ANNOUNCEMENT

At the end of this issue there is a rather lengthy insert concerning some proposed changes to the club bylaws. Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, has put quite a bit of thought into this proposal and certainly some irregularities in the bylaws are apparent in his proposal. Since a bylaw change is considered a major issue, the complete proposal is included in this issue. Voting will take place at the June 19 meeting. If you cannot make that meeting and would like to vote, the proposal is set up so that you can indicate your vote on each section of it and use the proposal itself as a ballot. Send the ballot to the club address so that it arrives before June 19.

CHANNEL 5 VISIT

A visit to the Channel 5 (WCVB) studios has been arranged by Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, with Chief Engineer David Folsom, for the evening of Thursday, May 15, 1986 at 7:00 p.m. As only limited parking is available, this tour will be restricted to WARS. 25-30 attendees can be accomodated. The location is 5 TV Place, Needham. Take Route 128 to Highland Avenue west. Pass Muzi Ford (also visible from 128), turn right (north) and look for TV Place where there is a Channel 5 sign. The parking lot will be reached before you get to the studio. See you there!

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

May 1, 1986, at 7:30 p.m.
May 15, 1986, at 7:00 p.m. (Ch. 5)
211 Washington St., Wellesley

FROM THE MAILBAG

DIGIPEATER MOVES TO 145.09 MHZ

After several weeks consideration and monitoring digi usage, it was decided that a move to 145.09 MHz would serve most packet users in the Wellesley area.

Now several BBS stations are operating on .09 and our digi operation can fill a need to assist with connections. Direct connections to N1DL and K1BC are available.

Tests were conducted from March 21 to March 26 and the digi indicated almost twice as much usage on .09 than on .01.

Several digis were overlapping the Wellesley area on 145.01 but this congestion is not the same on 145.09.

Any comments can be given to me directly or leave messages at K1BC.

Keep the packet racket going.... KT1K-1 digi now on 145.09.

73,
Bob Drapeau, KT1K

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be an Advanced Class in the Fall and we do have the Red Cross room for the duration. The class will be held on Monday nights during October, November, and December. If anyone is interested in either taking the class or helping to teach it, then please mention it to me, Vern Valero, ND1Z, 533-6822.

ARRL Membership?

Whenever you renew your ARRL membership be sure to do it through the club. To do this, send your completed membership form to the Wellesley ARS at the club address or bring it to the next meeting, and make your check out payable to the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society. We will then make sure that the League gets your application and dues. This way, the club can make $2 from every member that renews.

"New Tickets"

Congratulations to our Education Chairman Vern Valero, who not only educates the rest of the club but himself as well. Vern recently upgraded to Amateur Extra and has just traded in his old call N1DSZ for ND1Z.

Calendar

May 10: Hosstraders Swapfest, Deerfield, N.H.

May 18: VSCC Auto Race, Huniwell Estate, Wellesley

June 7-8: VSCC Auto Race, Mt. Equinox, Vermont

June 14-15: ARRL VHF QSO Party, Mt. Equinox, Vermont

June 28-29: Field Day

October 18-19: New England ARRL Convention, Boxboro, MA

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641
VICE PRESIDENT:
Rita Baker, N1DDI, 481-0863
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Arthur Thompson, KA1ENP, 235-5509
TREASURER:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
FUND RAISING:
Thomas Burton, KX1H, 235-6353
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:
Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382
EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:
Vern Valero, ND1Z, 533-6822
STATION MANAGER:
Bob Drapeau, KT1K, 883-1132
REPEATER COMMITTEE:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR:

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FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701
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THE "SPARK GAP" IS THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $10.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

MINUTES

Meeting of March 6, 1986:

The meeting was opened at 7:34 p.m. by President Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, with introductions.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, discussed the upcoming Museum of Science exhibit (April 26 and 27). Tom needs a couple of people to run an EMI study at the museum next weekend to ensure 2 meter ops don't interfere with ATV on 435 MHz. He is also looking for commercial artists to draw signs for the display. He asked for donations to support the project.

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to spend $75 on the Science Museum effort.

Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, is acting as Field Day coordinator. He announced that the Town Hall and facilities seem to be available. There are enough rigs and our old generator will be used after it is checked out.

The June VHF QSO Party on Mt. Equinox was discussed.

The meeting was closed at 10:32 p.m.

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Meeting of April 3, 1986:

The meeting was opened at 7:40 p.m. by President Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, with 14 present.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Tom, N1CPE, announced that the town has OK'ed the Field Day site assuming the contractors are off the premises and the building is ready.

Vern Valero, N1DSZ, announced that the General Class would start April 7 at Babson College.

Tom, N1CPE, announced that operators are needed at W1TKZ during the Science Museum exhibit. Volunteers are also needed to install a new antenna at the repeater and to do repair work on the HF vertical at W1TKZ.

Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, proposed some bylaw changes.

Tom, N1CPE, reminded people about the June 14 and 15 VHF Contest on Mt. Equinox.

Rita Baker, N1DDI, requested that the repeater be programmed to announce the Wednesday 8:00 p.m. club nets.

The meeting was closed at 8:28 p.m.

Hamnews

Progress towards a September 21, 1986, launch of the AMSAT Phase 3C satellite appears to be good. Construction activities are proceeding in parallel at Golden, Colorado in the USA and at the AMSAT-DL facility in Marburg, West Germany. Thanks ASR.

Westlink Report, April 4, 1986

education corner

by Vern Valero, ND1Z

This year's Novice class has come to a successful completion. The class saw nine people obtain their tickets. Eight decided to join the club. Each night's class was taught by a different WARS member. Congratulations to the new Amateurs and thanks to the teachers!

WARS club members really showed team spirit in the Novice class. Twelve members donated a Monday night to help bring new people into the hobby. It was excellent for the students to see and meet different club members. Thanks for your hard work and dedication!

Since so many of the Novice students decided to join the club, please welcome them in. If you see some unfamiliar faces at a meeting, please introduce yourself and help them feel welcome. We should also be prepared to act as 'consultant' to the Novices, maybe helping them put up an antenna. The sad fact is that many Novices across the country never even get on the air. We want to do our best to help our new friends get on the air, upgrade, and get the most out of the hobby.

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The General class is now in full swing at Babson College. On April 7 Art, KA1ENP, presented Principles I. I keep telling myself that the reason that Art is such a terrific teacher is because he is so experienced. But I wish that some of it would rub off on me!

On April 14 I presented Rules and Regulations. How does one make rules & regs exciting? Well, I just couldn't understand why the class kept bursting into laughter. Then I realized that the students were looking at the cartoon figures that I drew on the handouts. They thought it was a class in abstract art!

The class has sixteen students. Most of the Novice class students are present. There are even a few people who are unlicensed and are working independently on the morse code. In all we have a very enthusiastic crew.

We now have teachers for all except one session. There is a need for someone to teach the 'Amateur Practice' class on June 23. The material consists of: Power Line Connections, Oscilloscope, Multimeter, Signal Generator, 2 Tone Tests, Neutralization, Station Accessories, and RFI. Please volunteer to help with this class.

There was a slight catastrophe with the new question pool. It seems that the General/Technician question pool had changed in early April. Students that sent away for the ARRL License Manual received the old and out of date version. This is a very nasty trick for ARRL and local stores to play on our Novices. But we're not going to let it be a problem! I guarantee that the students will receive a copy of the current question pool and that the material that is taught will be up to date.

So there we are. The General Class is going well due to the teamwork and help of WARS members. If anyone would like to help out further, then please let me know. Thanks to all those members who have volunteered to teach and particularly to Bob, KT1K, for securing a room.

ACTIVITIES

Mt. Equinox Hill Climb, June 7&8

by Vern Robertson, W1EGE

The annual VSCC Hill Climb at Mt. Equinox, Vermont, will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8. Please note the date carefully -- don't show up a week late! (This is the septenial year of confusion!!)

Whether you like contests, mountains, sports cars; we've got it all.

Hill climb runs from about 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

If you need information on anything give me a buzz. Work 617-466-3217, home 617-533-7915, 42 Fisher Street, Medway, MA 02053.

Don't forget to prepare for sun, wind, bugs and all those things that bother those of us who live sheltered lives!

Communications will be on 2 meter FM simplex, 147.555.

Also, on Sunday May 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the VSCC will be holding a casual hill climb on the Huniwell Estate, Pond Road (just off of Route 135 in Wellesley at the Natick line), Wellesley. Pack a lunch and some bubbley for a pleasant day on the gorgeous estate. Communications will be on W1TKZ/R, 147.63/03.

If you can help out with either of these events, please give me a call.

It Seems to Me...

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

One of my biggest disappointments in Amateur Radio was last year when we had to cancel Field Day--for lack on interest no less! I can't think of any other club, even the most inactive, that cannot come up with a crew for Field Day every year. For many clubs, Field Day is THE highlight of the club year.

In less than two months we have a chance to turn this embarrassment around. Field Day 1986 is the weekend of June 28 and 29. Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, has been at work making the arrangements so that we can use the conveniently located Wellesley Town Hall as our Field Day site. Unfortunately, he has been working alone.

I see too many people that come to meetings, sit in the back, never say anything and never join in on any of the club activities. Or even worse, I see all those names on the mailing list that I can't even put with a face. Well, Field Day is something everyone can take part it. It's not too far away, it's right in Wellesley. It doesn't take too long, you can spend any amount of time during that weekend that you have available. It's not too strenuous, sure there are antennas to raise but most of the time is simply spent operating a radio and you can do that or you wouldn't be a ham!

Besides, it's fun! I can still remember the thrill of all of a sudden working Tahiti early Sunday morning on our last Field Day two years ago. THAT will wake you up! There are plenty of things to do, and some of it out of the ordinary as we will undoubtedly try for some of the bonus points such as satellite operation, solar power, etc.

So what's your excuse? Field Day should be the best event of the club year. Contact one of the club officers and help in the organizing. And don't plan anything else for June 28 and 29.

Hamnews

Want to work W1AW? Because of the many hours devoted to code practice and bulletins, W1AW is unavailable for casual QSOs during the evening. However, there is usually a 30 minute "window" between 11:30 p.m. EDST and midnight, when W1AW is available for contacts. A number of HQ staff "insomniacs" are operating W1AW nearly every weekday evening during the half-hour. Look for W1AW on 7040 kHz.

ARRL Letter, April 11, 1986

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The ARRL Ad Hoc Committee on Amateur Radio Digital Communication has been concentrating on packet radio standards and network development. The Committee now invites input on planning for other digital modes such as, but not limited to, digitized speech and images. Comments may address applications, technology, frequency utilization and regulatory issues. Write Chairman, Digital Committee, ARRL HQ, preferably prior to the next meeting scheduled for June 14.

ARRL Letter, April 11, 1986

Public Service

Traffic Handling, Part 2

by Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY

(Last month Jim explained the history of traffic handling and how messages travel through the National Traffic System or NTS.)

So now you want to see how can you check into this system. Simple. Just tune into a local section net. We have two 2 meter nets, one at 8:00 p.m. on 145.23, and another at 10:30 p.m. on 146.64. We have the EMRI Phone Net on 3880 kHz at 5:30 p.m. These are all `voice´ nets. On CW we have the EMRISS (slow speed) that meets twice, 4:00 and 8:30 p.m. on 3715 kHz (plus or minus QRM), and the EMRI at 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. All times are local time. Here you will hear the net control call for check ins. On voice you would say, "this is (pause for a moment to be sure you aren´t doubling with another station) W1ABC." After the call, the NCS will acknowledge your call and ask if you have traffic. On voice it is either yes or no. The NCS will act accordingly. On the CW nets he will use `QN´ sigs, QNI means check in. So you just send a simple letter like "B". He will repeat it. That´s your cue to say "de W1ABC QTC (I have traffic for...) Pawtucket RI 1, thru 2 AR." He knows now that you have the traffic we discussed above and will send you off with the appropriate stations to handle your traffic. When your business is concluded the NCS will excuse you from the net, on CW he will say QNX (you are excused from the net). It´s really that simple. If you are really interested in traffic handling, the ARRL puts out a Net Directory for a dollar (including postage) that lists all the nets throughout the U.S. and Canada, and also at the back of this Directory is a lot of good information about nets, originating messages, how to check in and all that sort of stuff. It is a dollar well invested.

O.K., so you want to know about how to originate a radiogram in its proper formatted manner. Great! First let´s look at an overall radiogram. It consists of the preamble, the address, the text and finally the signature. Follows is a simple message we will dissect:

1 R WA1TBY ARL 17 WELLESLEY MA JAN 17
JOHN P. JONES
3565 PACKET ST
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94136 409 765 3222
BT HI X HAVENT HEARD FROM YOU IN SOME TIME X HOPE ALL IS WELL X ARL SEVEN BT JIM MASON 46 HOWARD PL WELLESLEY MA 02181 617 356 7688 AR

The first line is the preamble; beginning the new year, we start off with message number 1, next is the precedence, in this case it´s routine (since 99% of all messages will be routine), next is the station originating the message, then the check (the number of words in the text), the town of origination (if you will note, WA1TBY lives in Brighton, but the sender lived in Wellesley, so Wellesley is the town of origin, not Brighton), the state and date of the message. That is the preamble. Next is the address of the message, and you want this to be as complete as possible, full names (no initials please, like J P JONES), zip and area codes and telephone number. (If someone calls on you to send a message and they don´t include the phone number, ask them for it. It might prove to be unlisted at the delivery address.) Next comes the text and if you will notice, it is separated with a BT on each end to separate the text from the rest of the message. Count the words in the text (the X counts as one word), and it should agree with the check in the preamble. Now since we used an ARRL numbered message (ARL SEVEN) we have inserted ARL before the

17 in the preamble. If the text contained no ARL numbered message, your check would appear simply as 17 in the preamble. ARL SEVEN says reply by Amateur Radio through the ham delivering this message. Finally we have the signature of the sender. (It would be a good idea here, for your records, to list the address and phone number of the sender in case you get a message back you would know how to contact the sender.) In the text of the message we use an X as a period and, if asking a question, use QUERY for a question mark.

This just about covers the main points in traffic handling, all except receiving a message for delivery to your local area. Let's say that test message was destined for Wellesley from San Francisco and you could handle it. The net control would say "we have traffic for Wellesley, Needham, Provincetown, Providence." You can open up and say "W1ABC for Wellesley" (or whatever you might be able to handle on a toll free phone call). On CW he will say "QNW, (how do I route traffic for -----)". At this point you just send "ABC", the last letters of your call. He now knows you can take Wellesley and will pass it to you at his discretion. So you take the message, call up John P. Jones and say something like this: "Hello, I'm a ham radio opeator and just got a message from California addressed to you and it says...." At this point you can read the message and when you get to the ARL SEVEN part of it, read the translation and not ARL SEVEN. Once he says okay, you might ask him if he would like to send back a message. In many instances they will, but be sure you get as full an address as possible when you do. If he doesn't give it to you at first, ask him for it, he most likely has it in his address book.

So traffic handling not only serves the purpose of providing a public service, but it gives you a lot of satisfaction at the same time. See you on the nets.

CHUCKLE KORNER

SUPER ACCURATE HOURGLASS

by WB7TGQ
from GEARVAKf Bulletin, via ARNS

The Granitor Corporation of American announced recently the development and marketing of a new concept in accurate hourglasses, suitable for use in modern technological American society. For everyday use, Granitor is offering the "Glow in the Dark" hourglass model, filled with the buyer's choice of Uranium or Radium sand. For superb, split second accuracy, Granitor has made available the "Atomic Clock Hourglass" filled with Cesium sand. Both models will be made available through the GEARVAKf Gift Catalogue. The "glow in the dark" hourglasses can be purchased for $13,548.99 postpaid. The super-accurate "Atomic Clock" costs just a little more, $63,449.89, and includes setting instructions.

Hamnews

Just at press time the annual Dayton Hamvention awards were announced. They are: Ham of the Year -- Roy Neal, K6DUE. Technical Excellence -- Doug De Maw, W1FB. Special Achievement Award -- Rev. Michael Mullen, WB2GQW, President of the International Mission Radio Association (IMRA).

ARRL Letter, April 11, 1986

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Wayne Green, W2NSD, editor of 73 Magazine, visited HQ March 26. Wayne said that it was his first visit to HQ since the League was located on LaSalle Road! He characterized his visit as "bridge building". He had long discussions with Executive Vice President Dave Sumner, Club Services Department Manager Curt Holsopple, and Affiliated Club Program Manager Leo Kluger concerning his ideas for revitalizing Amateur Radio.

ARRL Letter, April 11, 1986

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BYLAWS

Proposed by Bill Hanlon, N1ADY

The bylaws of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society are approximately seven years old. During those years many changes in club operations as well as the world in general have taken place. In order to recognize these changes the President appointed an Ad Hoc Bylaw Committee to review the bylaws and make recommendations for changes as required. This committee has been largely inactive but in order to get things moving again I have made a first pass at updating our bylaws. The overriding considerations in this process were simplification and flexibility. In addition there were a number of areas that I felt needed clarification. This is not intended to be the final version for the next seven years but instead is meant to recognize the way we currently are operating as well as to lay the basis for easier future revisions (especially those that will be required if we intend to incorporate). The results of this work is herewith presented for ratification.

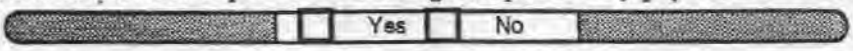
The following two proposals are made in order to eliminate the circular reference between Article I Section 3 and Article III Section 2.

Article I Section 3 now reads:

"Continuation of membership shall be contingent upon timely payment of the annual dues in accordance with Article III of these bylaws."

Proposed amendment:

"Continuation of membership shall be contingent upon timely payment of annual dues."



Article III Section 2 now reads:

"Dues not paid thirty days after the due date shall be cause for automatic discontinuance of membership in accordance with Article I Section 3 of these bylaws."

Proposed amendment:

"Dues not paid within thirty days of the due date shall be cause for automatic discontinuance of membership."

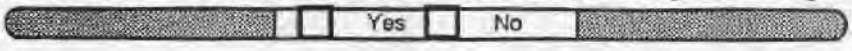
The following three proposals are made in order to streamline the voting procedures.

Article II Section 2 now reads:

"Absentee ballots on matters of primary and secondary importance will be solicited in the club newspaper which shall be circulated at least thirty days before the decision meeting. That issue of the club newspaper shall contain a complete explanation of the matter to be voted on and a sample absentee ballot. Absentee ballots may be executed by filling in the sample or reasonable facsimile thereof. Absentee ballots shall be enclosed in a signed and dated envelope. To preserve the secrecy of the ballot the vote counters will tally the envelopes before they are opened to ensure that no member votes more than once. Absentee ballots may be canceled or changed by another absentee ballot dated later than the first or by voting in person at the decision meeting."

Proposed amendment:

"Absentee ballots may be submitted on certain voting matters and shall be enclosed in a signed and dated envelope. Absentee ballots may be canceled or changed by another absentee ballot dated later than the first or by voting in person at the decision meeting. Vote counters will use reasonable care to preserve the secrecy of the absentee ballot as well as to assure only one vote per member."



Article II Section 3 now reads:

"Matters of primary importance shall be passed by affirmative vote of two thirds of the membership that vote on the issue. Absentee ballots will be solicited."

Proposed amendment:

Yes ☐ No ☐

The following two proposals are made in order to eliminate the present restrictions on the scheduling of meetings:

Article VI Section 1 now reads:

"Regularly scheduled meetings of this society are as follows: the first and third Thursdays of the months of October, November, January, February, March, April, May and June; and the third Thursday of the months of July, August and September. The September meeting will be devoted to presentation of the budget and activities plan. The second meeting in March will be devoted to nomination of candidates for elective office. The second meeting in May will be devoted to election of officers."

Proposed amendment:

"There shall be at least four meetings of the general membership each year. A meeting in September will be devoted to presentation of the budget and activities plan. A meeting in March will be devoted to nomination of candidates for elective office. A meeting in May will be devoted to election of officers."

Yes ☐ No ☐

Article VI Section 2 now reads:

"Executive committee meetings will be held at least once each month to discuss club operations and the progress of various committees. The incoming executive committee will meet in the summer before they take office to prepare the annual budget."

Proposed amendment:

"Executive committee meetings may be held from time to time to discuss club operations and other matters. These meetings will be scheduled as required by the president of the society."